

PASSENGER 'FOR HIRE' VESSELS

If passengers are allowed onboard for monetary contribution, economic benefit or a donation as a condition of carriage to any person having an interest in the vessel is considered a commercial operation (passenger for hire).

Chartering a vessel?

For more information with regard to vessel operations, and detailed information on federal requirements for uninspected operations and licensing please contact US Coast Guard Sector San Diego. Contact the local marinas for more information regarding state and local requirements.



UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

46 US Code (USC) 2101



A few examples of a passenger for hire vessel:

1. Passengers buy tickets to ride a powerboat.
2. You rent your moored vessel as a bed & breakfast.
3. You rent your entire vessel for a party while the vessel is underway.
4. Requiring fuel, food and/or beverage as a mandatory contribution for a fishing trip.



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WWW.USCG.mil/pvs/UPV.asp

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U.S. PASSENGER VESSEL OPERATIONS

This pamphlet is intended to assist the public in avoiding illegal passenger carriage and is a general guide for vessels operating on federal navigable waters. It is not intended to be definitive in assessing legal status. Always consult a USCG marine safety professional or admiralty lawyer

FAQS

1

A **recreational vessel** is manufactured and operated for pleasure with no one onboard who provided money or any type of economic benefit (this is NOT a passenger for hire operation).

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR LEGAL OPERATIONS:

-Recreational Vessel: Certificate of Documentation or State Registration.

-Small Passenger Vessel: USCG Licensed Master, Certificate of Documentation or State Registration, Certificate of Inspection.

-Uninspected Passenger Vessel: Certificate of Documentation or State Registration, USCG Licensed Master/Mate, or Uninspected Passenger Operator Credential.

-Bareboat Charter Vessel: Certificate of Documentation or State Registration, Bareboat Agreement, USCG Licensed Master Mate or Uninspected Passenger Operator Credential (if required).

4

Bareboat charters (Reference: Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular No. 7-94)

A bareboat charter is a vessel turned over to a charterer (person renting the boat) for a specific period of time in which they have responsibility of the operation of the vessel. A bareboat charter agreement will discuss the specifics of the vessel's operations. The charterer is responsible for the crew if required and passengers (max. 12) that may be onboard.



2

Small Passenger Vessel

A SPV has been issued a Certificate of Inspection (COI) from USCG defining passenger capacity, safety equipment, manning requirements, and a navigation route.

3

Uninspected Passenger Vessel

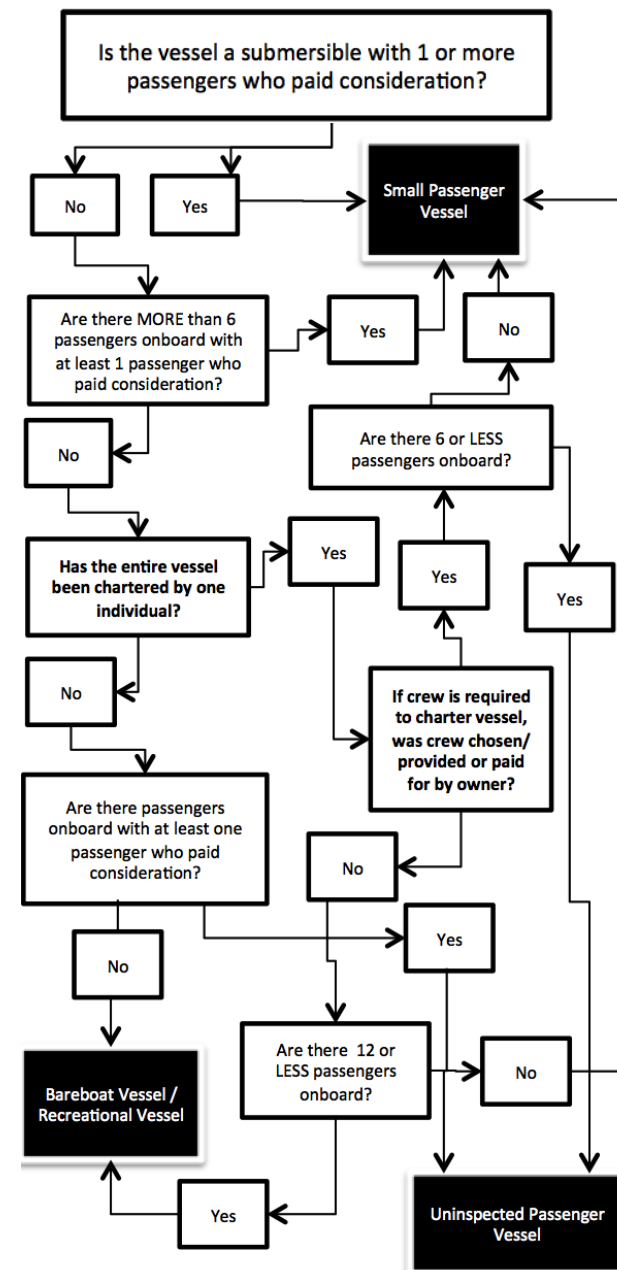
Operators must possess the appropriate credential issued by the USCG, vessel registration issued by the Coast Guard or by the state, and complies with required safety equipment. Passenger limits are 6 for vessels less than 100 gross tons and 12 for vessels more than 100 gross tons.

5

"For hire" Water Jet Device

A water jet device operating in the air via a personal type water craft can be a passenger for hire operation when monetary or economic benefit is given and a required company representative helps operate it. This company representative would need a USCG license.

Legal operations for vessels under 100 GT



Note: If you are unsure, please contact your local Coast Guard office